

JANUARY 16, 2002  
Mr. John L. Margowski, Director  
Waukesha County Veterans' Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **VETERANS ENCOURAGED TO RECORD THEIR MILITARY DISCHARGE PAPERS**

(DD214's) With Their Local County Veterans Service Office

Waukesha --- For decades, veterans have registered their military discharge papers (DD214 Report of Separation from Active Duty) with the County Register of Deeds for safekeeping and easy retrieval. Recently, there have been reports in other states that unauthorized individuals may have obtained personal information from veterans' DD214's under public record laws.

In Wisconsin, state law protects the privacy and confidentiality of veterans' DD214's registered with the county. According to the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), the law states that the discharge certificate shall be accessible only to the veteran or his or her dependents, the county veterans' service officer, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any person with written authorization from the veteran or dependents.

Any DD214's that the WDVA or the county veterans' service office have in their possession are also confidential documents under state law.

"Veterans who have not done so should register their DD214's with the county free-of-charge to ensure safekeeping of this important document, which is used to obtain veterans' benefits from the state and federal government," says John L. Margowski, County Veterans' Service Officer. "The confidentiality and privacy of the document are well protected under state law."

Waukesha County veterans may register their DD214 by contacting the Waukesha County Veterans' Service Office, located in the Human Service Center, 500 Riverview Avenue, Room G138, Waukesha, WI 53188-3680, or call 262-548-7732. Also, see our web site at [www.waukeshacounty.gov/veterans](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/veterans). More information is also available on the WDVA web site at <http://dva.state.wi.us>.